

THE FORMATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF A RURAL SETTLEMENT CONCERNING ITS POPULATION'S MIGRATION

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The development of the network of the Hungarian settlements, the settlement policy as well as questions of development arouse the interest of wide range of people, sociographers, economists, the mass-communication as well as public opinion deals with it alike. It's easy to understand as a settlement is a framework of the whole social activity and this framework influences the range and forms of this activity. The conditions of our life depend not only on our individual endowments and situations but on our dwelling place as well.

One of the most frequently discussed problems of the recent past development of our settlements is connected with the future of our villages. The most decisive reason of it is that the demographic situation has lately become very favourable, the rate of rural population has gradually decreased, some tiny villages wholly or almost wholly have lost their population.

The relation between the size of a settlement and the decrease of its population is not synonymous as some villages could keep their population owing to some outward or inward reasons.

On the other hand the decrease of population is not absolutely a negative thing, though its increase is a positive one. Generally the culmination of population is connected with the role it plays in the division of work of a settlement and its place in the region.

The aim of this investigation is to discover how the population of a village Földeák changes owing to its dwellers' migration.

The material for analysis was collected with the help questionnaires. The intensive adult population (Over 18 years) was surveyed.

Földeák is a settlement in a special geographical position in the southern part of the Great Hungarian Plain. It is situated in the eastern part of county Csongrád between Makó and Hódmezővásárhely, nearly in the middle of them. It's a transitory territory and so it's typically drawn from different sides. Concerning its size with its about 3600 inhabitants it belongs to the same category as about the half of the settlements of the country.

Its traffic-geographical conditions are favourable, its infrastructural and social provision is on an average level, on the basis of some indices it's a little bit better, according to other ones it's a little bit worse.

According to the most important demographical indices concerning the numerical formation of population Földeák belongs to the settlements of unfavourable endowments. It reached the maximum of its population before the Second World War, in 1941 it had 5626 inhabitants and since then its population has been decreasing though the rate of decrease is less than the average one. The first cause of it is that the birth rate has permanently been decreasing, and the negative growth is due to it. The rate of birth and death between 1975—1985 was the following:

Year	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Birth	80	62	48	46	46	38	30	37	36	24	33
Death	55	54	63	55	60	62	67	63	53	61	52

The second component of the actual growth the migration difference is also negative. In some years, however, the number of incomers is greater than that of outgoers, but concerning a longer period the difference of incomers and outgoers is not positive. With our survey we wanted to collect some data in the migration to be expected. On the questionery- among other pieces of information concerning the planned migration- the following questions were:

whether one wants to move out of the village
if yes, when?
where?

Concerning their intention 134 persons out of 1704 (7,9%) answered yes. This rate would mean a considerable population decrease if they moved out at once. But as we can see later the answer yes means only an uncertain, distant plan, it's only a desire and not a concrete intention. (For the sake of simplicity we call the total number of people taking part in the survey „all adults” and the ones who want to emigrate „emigrants” but we must not forget that people questioned there do not mean the whole population and the declared desire is not equal to emigrating.

The answers referring to the point of time of a planned emigration we grouped according to their frequency, or the ones who wanted to emigrate according to their answers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or more than 5 years they want to move out. The inhabitants whose migration was only a desire and they did not give the point of time or they were uncertain were put into the 6. category. The rate of ones who want to emigrate in 1-2 years is the highest (27,6% and 26,1% respectively). The two categories together are 53,7%. These answers can be supposed to express definite intention or even activity (building, application for a flat etc.), that's why they gave such a short term, consequently they can be considered effective emigrants as well. The second highest category is uncertain about the point of time. Most of them are uncertain about choosing the new dwelling place as well, so they are who expressed not a factual moving plan but only a distant desire in their answers. (table 1.)

Table 1.

THE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WANTING TO EMIGRATE
ACCORDING TO THE PLANNED TIME OF EMIGRATION AND ITS PLACE

The place of the planned emigration	The time of the planned emigration						Sum total	All emigration in %
	1	2	3	4	5 or more	uncertain		
	years							
Makó	43,5 28,6	30,4 38,9	8,7 13,3	8,7 40,0	—	8,7 5,4	100,0	17,2
Hmrvhely	29,4 28,6	14,7 27,8	8,8 20,0	2,9 20,0	20,6 29,2	23,5 21,6	100,0	25,4
Szeged	24,1 20,0	3,4 5,6	10,3 20,0	3,4 20,0	37,9 45,8	20,7 16,2	100,0	21,6
Bp	57,1 11,4	14,3 5,6	14,3 6,7	— —	14,3 4,2	— —	100,0	5,2
Surrounding settlement	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	100,0 5,4	100,0	1,5
Remote settlement	50,0 11,4	12,5 5,6	— —	12,5 20,0	125, 4,2	12,5 2,7	100,0	6,0
uncertain	— —	9,7 16,7	19,4 40,0	— —	12,9 16,7	58,1 48,6	100,0	23,1
Sum total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0		
All emigration in %	27,6	26,1	13,4	11,2	3,7	17,9		100,0

The answers referring to the new dwelling place — question where — were also grouped: Besides the most frequently named Makó, Hódmezővásárhely, Szeged and Budapest were called „surrounding settlements” all the villages and towns that are not farther than 50 kilometres from Földeák, and all the places, including foreign countries as well were called „distant settlements”. Summarising the answers Hódmezővásárhely became the first among the dwellings. It is motivated with the nearness and the dynamic development of the town.

Szeged is the second and Makó is only the third in the row. A great number of people gave an uncertain answer the question „where” and half of them could not decide the point of time either. (see as above) The attraction of the surrounding settlements is the weakest, only 1,5% of migrates chose them in an uncertain time.

If we analyse the answers given to the questions „when” and „where” a more detailed examination shows the direction of migration and its formation in time more precisely and it gives a more favourable picture of Makó. It can be concluded that about 1/3 of all emigrants in 1-2 years wanted to move to Makó and not much of them to Hódmezővásárhely, and only a little more than 1/6 to Szeged. On the other hand 3/4 of those who are moving to Makó plan to move in 1-2 years, and 44% want to move to Hódmezővásárhely, and exactly 28% want to move to Szeged in 1-2 years. It means that Makó is the first among the people who are most determined to emigrate, the second place is Hódmezővásárhely and the third one is Szeged. (table 1.)

Then we analysed the composition of those wanting to migrate in details according to their age and sex. According to their age the ratio of the youngest generation between 18-25 was the highest. (nearly 40% of the total number of emigrations) though this group of surveyed people is the smallest (11,3%).

It is unfavourable from the demographical point of view but it could be expected as this age group is the most mobile (as they haven't had their own home, or haven't decided yet where to settle down). Namely this is the very group that deals with founding a family, building or buying a flat, so their choice is the widest.

The intention to move somewhere is gradually decreases together with the age, the ratio of the age-group of those wanting to migrate is roughly coincide with that of all adults. A new rise can be experienced among pensioners and the elder but the motives here are quite different, their purpose is to establish a more comfortable and secure old age.

The distribution of emigrants according to their sex is also interesting. Totally women's number is greater than that of men but their ratio is changing depending on their age. The rate of women is strikingly high in the youngest category (it is approximately 1/3-2/3 for women). Concerning middle aged emigrants this ratio is roughly equalized, then the ratio turns over and in the age-group of 56-65 years it has an opposite sign that is 2/3 of emigrants are men. When the emigrants are over 66 the number of women is more again. It has to be mentioned, however, that these two latest categories are only a small ratio of the whole number of emigrants. (table 2.)

We have investigated whether the number of children decides planning migrating or not that is whether the number of migraters is more or not among childless families or families with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or more children.

Table 2.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUTURE EMIGRATORS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE AND SEX

	The age of emigrants						Sum total	All emigration in %	All adults in %
	18—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	over 66			
	years								
Men	31,1 36,5	27,9 50,0	13,1 47,1	14,8 56,2	6,6 66,7	6,6 44,4	100,0	45,5	47,5
Women	45,2 63,5	23,3 50,0	12,3 52,9	9,6 43,8	2,7 33,3	6,8 55,6	100,0	54,5	52,5
Sum total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0			
Sum total in %	38,8	25,4	12,7	11,9	4,5	6,7		100,0	
All adults in %	11,3	20,7	18,0	15,3	16,6	18,1			100,0

Our examination shows that there is no decisive connection between the number of children and migration, it is not a decisive factor in migrating. It's true that the number of childless is greater than that of among the all adults but it is caused by the fact that majority of those who want to migrate are young and that's why they haven't had children yet. Otherwise the rate of the other categories is similar to that of all adults.

According to the question if they have children whether they live together with them or not the ratio of those who live together with them is similar to that of migrators and all adults taking part in the survey. There is certain difference with those who have children and they don't live together.

This ratio is smaller than that of migrates taking part in the survey obviously because this category represents the group of the elder among future migrators and their number is much fewer than that of the young. At the same time it shows that migration after the emigrated children is not decisive.

Division of those who want to migrate according to their education is also particular and instructive. The rate of those who finished secondary school (vocational school, secondary technical school, secondary grammar school) is the highest, more than half of them finished such type of school. Concerning their number eight grade school leavers represent the second category and graduates the third one. However, if we compare the education of all adults with that of the group of migrators we can see even more strikingly that with rising the level of education the desire to emigrate proportionally increases. 70% of all adults finished eight classes or fewer, 35% of migrates come out of them. 27% of surveyed had finished secondary school and more than the half of migrates came out of them. 3% of adults graduated and 10% of them wanted to emigrate that is their ratio manifolded that of all who took part in the survey. (table 3.)

Table 3.

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL ADULTS WANTING TO MIGRATE AND
TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY ACCORDING TO THEIR EDUCATION**

Schooling	Migrations in %	All adults in %
Less than 8 classes	14,2	34,7
High classes	20,9	35,3
8 and fewer classes together	35,1	70,0
Secondary school	55,2	27,3
Graduated	9,7	2,7

According to their occupation the number of manual worker is decisive: 53% (where the ratio of people working in the agriculture is low, only 1/6 of all manual workers). The ratio of pensioners is comparatively high: 9,0%.

Comparing the place of birth of those who want and don't want to emigrate the following is worth mentioning: the ratio of migrators is the lowest among the people who were born at Földeák and the highest among who were born at Makó and Hódmezővásárhely. In our opinion the cause of it that they were not born in their village but in hospital of a near town because of the developing health service, so the high ratio of young adults raises the ratio of those who were born at Makó and Hódmezővásárhely among those who want to emigrate. The number and ratio of those who were born besides these three settlements in other villages and towns can be neglected.

We have tried to discover whether the connections of relatives influence the desire to emigrate that is whether the villagers having connections of relatives with other settlement more often plan to emigrate or not. First of all we discovered the number of such relations that is we asked them whether they had relatives in other settlements. We found 182 relations of relative among them, we took for one the relation if someone had relatives at one settlement (independently of its number), and we took for a second relation the relatives at the second settlement.

Future emigrators have more such relations (70,9% have relatives at other settlement) than those who don't want to emigrate. (52,2%) Comparing the connections of relative of these two groups according to their settlements we generally found similar ratio. Makó and Hódmezővásárhely are the first but not with an extreme ratio, the role of Szeged and Budapest is only a little less. The ratio of Budapest relatives is a little higher and that of living at remote settlements is a little lower concerning people who want to migrate than in case who don't want.

The connections with the relatives living at Földeák are also weak. The percentage of those who have no relative there and want to migrate is a little bit higher than that of who have and don't want to migrate, but the differences can be neglected.

We tried to define the intensity of the connection of relative with the frequency of visits with the following questions: How often do you visit your relatives? (don't visit them, yearly, once half a year, 2—3 times a month, monthly, twice a week, or more often)

Though we couldn't divide the number of visits of the relatives living there and at other settlements but we could realize that people dealing with emigration visit their relatives more often than the average, so they live in wider relation, more mobile and often group.

According to the example of Földeák we can summarize that the rural form of life attracts the young, women and people with higher education the least, so first of all they try to choose another dwelling place. The ratio of emigrants among old people has also increased a little. They prefer the two neighbouring towns as a new residence but Szeged and Budapest are also favoured by them. The number of children and the residence of children not living together with them is not a decisive

factor. The influence of connections of relative is weak both in the respect of incentive to emigrate both in the respect to keep the population.

In the end we have studied now great the number of people moving there among those who took part in the survey. 237 of them have moved to the village during the past 15 years (between 1970—1985) (66%) approximately in a uniform distribution, generally 15 persons per year. This modest rate of moving in can't keep the balance with moving out in the future either and it contributes to the further slow decreasing the population.

In the history of formation of the number of population of Földeák a certain change can only be expected if the nearness of the towns means a decisive advantage for it, that is if the threefold system of connection of Szeged-Hódmezővásárhely-Makó has got strong owing to the co-ordinated development, and it enters its deconcentrated stage of the forming agglomerational development. In this stage the growth of population of town will decelerate and the ratio of village population will begin to grow especially in villages being in a similar geographical position around towns as Földeák.

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